4/16/70

Dear Howard,

Yesterday I got a garbled telegram from John Nichols, who was in Washington and could have phoned me for a third the cost. He said he's examined PM and PM III at the copyright office and wants to purchase them.

This is unusual for several reasons. First, he was the first person to see the original of PM, more than a year before anyone else. Second, he knew about PMIII more than a year ago and never expressed any interest in it.

So, I conclude his reasons are consistent with his actions of the past.

By a strange coincidence, a short while ago I wrote him and told him if he were prepared to act honorably, this time to do it rather than just say it (and I was forceful in pointing out other violations of his word and their consequences), I would tell him everything I got in the area of his interest. In fairness to him, if he was away long enough, he hadn't seen the letter

However, this is a strange way for a man with his duties to be spending time, so I presume he has another devious scheme that he will regard otherwise for improperly obtaining what he couldn't get by his own effort and couldn't learn by means of his own capacities.

I have written asking him to clarify the garbled wire and answer the letter.

Meanwhile, this makes his trip even more interesting to me, so I ask you to tell me, as soon as you can, what he told you of it and its purposes (which I had presumed were to attend some scientific gathering, lets say in NY) and what he tried to learn from you. I'd like to know before I have to respond to him again.

I have not yet gotten those new things I've been promised. They were dispatched by the agency, intercepted by the Archives, which is trying to suppress them, which is a new switch. This kind of thing, which requires much time, is more than enough to have to cope with without having to try and frustrate the Nicholes, Liftons, Skolnicks and others.

Sincerely,